

RESOLUTION CONCERNING DRUG ABUSE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Whereas, drug abuse is a fundamental humanitarian and social issue that transcends political ideas, parties, and national boundaries; and,

Whereas, drug abuse, as defined by United Nations Drug Control Conventions, destroys the unique dignity of individuals, their freedom to think, and ability to evaluate the difference between right and wrong; and,

Whereas, individual freedoms, as defined in Article 3 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should not be compromised; and,

Whereas, drug addiction means chemical enslavement and perpetuating drug abuse leads to poverty, loss of dignity, and health, actions that are rejected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically addressing the freedom from any forms of slavery, torture, cruel, and inhumane treatment; and

Whereas, all individuals have the right to live in a world with dignity, work, and a decent standard of living, as defined in Articles 22, 23, and 25, respectively of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and,

Whereas, these rights are seriously compromised in a world which would condone drug abuse; and,

Whereas, non-drug users, especially children, as defined by Article 33 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are entitled to live in a safe, secure, drug-free environment, and to have their human rights protected by society; and,

Whereas, drug abuse limits human potential, threatens the safety and well being of children and unborn children, diminishes freedom to choose, leads to addiction and chemical slavery, and creates an inequity in society for those who choose not to use drugs; and,

Whereas, programs which facilitate drug abuse and drug trafficking perpetuate the violation of human rights among the most vulnerable individuals, those whose free will has been denied by addiction;

Therefore, let it be resolved that all people have the right to expect governments to protect them from drug abuse and have a life free of drugs; and, in particular, parents have the right to expect governments to assist them in their efforts to help their children to remain free of drugs; and,

Therefore, let it be resolved that communities have the right to be protected from consequences resulting from drug abuse; and;

Therefore, let it be resolved that those abusing drugs should have timely treatment available to them and the equal protection under the law to ensure their individual rights; and, finally

Let it be resolved that we reaffirm the spirit and letter of the United Nations drug conventions and the political declaration of United Nations General Assembly Special Session 1998 which expressly call upon governments to prevent drug abuse and to promote full recovery for those suffering from abuse and dependence.

ADOPTED September 2006 by the ***International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy***.
(www.ITFSDP.org)